

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 385
By Harper

A RESOLUTION to express the sorrow of the General Assembly
at the death of our colleague, Representative
Harold M. Love of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of our most trusted and valued colleague, Representative Harold M. Love of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, as a member first of Nashville's City Council, and then the Metropolitan Council and the General Assembly, Harold Love was a persistent and articulate advocate for the neighborhoods of North Nashville and their institutions, including Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, Fisk University and the 18th Avenue Community Center; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure in public service, Harold M. Love excelled in many roles; yet as he discharged the duties of his offices, he always remained a very sensitive and compassionate man who cared deeply for his fellow human beings and their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love was a native Nashvillian who loved the city and her citizens whom he served so capably; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love's sincere belief in the importance of education was a significant hallmark in his life; and

WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Pearl High School where he earned academic honors as the valedictorian of his 1935 graduating class; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Tennessee State University, he distinguished himself in his major field (social science and economics) and achieved membership in Alpha Kappa Mu Honorary Society; in 1937, he was initiated into the “Mighty” Rho Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, a devoted student, Mr. Love earned his bachelor of science degree from Tennessee State University in 1939 and his master of science degree from Fisk University in 1941; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree was conferred upon this diligent supporter of education by Fisk University; and

WHEREAS, in April 1991, the Education Building at Woodland Hills Youth Development Center was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, as he struggled to earn his degree from TSU during the Depression, Mr. Love witnessed firsthand how difficult it was for black institutions of higher learning to obtain state funding from the General Assembly that was equal to the funds appropriated for white institutions; and

WHEREAS, years later, Mr. Love was instrumental as a member of the House of Representatives in appropriating more than 100 million dollars to TSU for a renovation that is now transforming the campus; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from TSU, Mr. Love proudly entered the U. S. Army and bravely served for four years in the European Theater during World War II, earning the rank of Master Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, his courageous and valiant military service was recognized by his receipt of the Distinguished Service Award, three battle stars and numerous other medals; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Love became an insurance agent in Nashville for the Atlanta Life Insurance Company and served that company with acumen and industry for over 27 years; he was one of the first black salesmen hired in the South by Prudential Insurance Company, and retired as Salesman Emeritus after an exemplary career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love began his illustrious career in public service as a member of the old Nashville City Council in 1961; he continued his meritorious service to the good people of Nashville and Davidson County as a member of the Metropolitan Council from 1963 to 1970; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, he left the council to run for the first of 12 terms and 24 years in the House of Representatives; rarely opposed in legislative races, he campaigned with the slogan "Keep Love in the House"; and

WHEREAS, because of his acumen, industry and conscientious service, Mr. Love became one of the first African-American committee chairmen in the House of Representatives, astutely serving as Chair of the State and Local Government Committee; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished and respected member of this Body from 1969 to 1994, he also served ably as a member of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee and the House Calendar and Rules Committee during his extremely productive tenure on Capitol Hill; and

WHEREAS, a past chairman of the Davidson County delegation to the General Assembly, Mr. Love was an affable gentleman with a pleasant personality who respected everyone's dignity and humanity regardless of his or her station in life; and

WHEREAS, his inspirational example of compassionate service to his fellow human beings, and especially families, caused the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators to name and present an award in his and his wife's honor; and

WHEREAS, initiated in 1987, the Harold and Mary Love Family of the Year Award is presented annually to the family of African-American descent whose contributions to their community and overall achievements best exemplify the quality of life and strong family structure that the Black Caucus endeavors to make available for all citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, himself a member of the Black Caucus during his proficient legislative career, Mr. Love was a remarkable man who realized that citizenship entails many duties as well as privileges; and

WHEREAS, he gave generously of his time, talents and energies to numerous civic, charitable and community organizations, including the North End Citizenship Association, the Nashville Urban League, the Tennessee State University National Alumni Association (serving for six outstanding years as president), the graduate chapter of Omega Phi Psi Fraternity, the Boy Scouts of America, the Nashville Fisk Club and the Fisk University Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Love was a lifelong member of Lee Chapel A.M.E. Church, where he served faithfully as an usher and a member of the Official Board; and

WHEREAS, of the many reasons that Mr. Love will long be revered and remembered, he was perhaps most proud of the assistance he rendered to protesting university students during the civil rights struggles of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love's non-confrontational style helped him form bridges between Nashville's black and white communities as a new era in racial equality became a reality; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of 36 years, Mary Yancey Love; his son, Harold M. Love, Jr.; four daughters, Candyce Anita Love, Cheryl Lillian Love, Caralyn Alice Love and Chrystal Love (Terry) Cunningham; four siblings, Modestine L. Love, Lillian E. (Wilbert) Grandy, Samuel D. Love, III, and Joseph A. (Lucy) Love; and three grandchildren, Christiane Lere', Terri Cinclair and W. Kendall Butler, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Harold Love distinguished himself as a premier cultural and political leader in Nashville's African-American community for more than 35 years, earning the unqualified respect and admiration of his peers and constituents alike; and

WHEREAS, Harold M. Love was truly one of the most dedicated public servants that Nashville and Davidson County, and indeed the state of Tennessee, have ever known, and his life of purpose and commitment to the greater good should be appropriately commemorated; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor the memory of our colleague, Representative Harold M. Love.

He was an extraordinary gentleman whose indelible legacy of public service as a legislator, neighborhood advocate and civil rights leader will not soon be equaled or forgotten. Harold Love's passing creates a void that will be difficult to fill, yet his meritorious example will continue to inspire us all in our daily lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and condolences to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Love's family, with this final resolving clause omitted from such copies.